



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

**TESTIMONY**  
**OF**  
**JEFFREY S. CRAWFORD**  
**DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY**  
**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**SPEAKING NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST**  
**L.D. 1158**  
**AN ACT TO EXPAND ENERGY AND WATER STANDARDS**  
**PRESENTED BY REP. BELL**  
**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**ON**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**DATE OF HEARING:**

**April 7, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Committee, I am Jeffrey S. Crawford, Director of the Bureau of Air Quality at the Department of Environmental Protection, speaking neither for nor against L.D. 1158.

In 2021, Governor Mills signed into law L.D. 940, *An Act To Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards*. This legislation authorized the Department to initiate rulemaking

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to restrict the sale of certain appliances and plumbing fixtures listed at 38 M.R.S. § 1616, including: (1) computers and computer monitors; (2) commercial hot food holding cabinets; (3) plumbing fixtures that are water closets and urinals; and (4) water dispensers. The Department subsequently initiated rulemaking on its 06-096 C.M.R ch, 180, *Appliance Efficiency Standards* rule, which was adopted with an effective date of November 3, 2022.

L.D. 1158 would expand the list of new appliances and products that a person may not sell or offer for sale in the State in accordance with major substantive rules adopted by the Department to include commercial battery chargers; commercial dishwashers; commercial food steamers; commercial fryers; commercial ovens; computer server power supplies; gas fireplaces; residential ventilating fans; and water softeners.

Eighteen states and the District of Columbia currently have appliance efficiency standards on products ranging from air clearers to urinals, with product manufacturers typically required to certify that their products meet existing standards established by programs such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ENERGY STAR®; EPA's WaterSense, the California Energy Commission (CEC), or industry trade groups (e.g., Heating and Ventilating Institute for residential ventilating fans). These entities maintain public databases that list compliant products. States can also require a letter of attestation from the manufacturer to certify the product.

Products meeting more stringent efficiency standards can provide both environmental and economic dividends, as demonstrated by more efficient commercial food steamers. Seven states (including Vermont and Massachusetts) along with the District of Columbia have adopted state standards for commercial food steamers (a.k.a. steam cookers) based on ENERGY STAR Version 1.2, which has been in effect since 2003. According to EPA, commercial steam cookers meeting the ENERGY STAR specification offer shorter cook times, higher production rates, and reduced heat loss

due to better insulation and more efficient steam delivery systems. In addition to saving energy, commercial steam cookers meeting the ENERGY STAR specification consume about 90% less water than standard models. An ENERGY STAR certified commercial steam cooker (both electric and gas models) saves businesses about \$1,000 annually and on average \$12,000 over the product's lifetime on utility bills.<sup>1</sup>

Many of the product categories in this bill have widely distributed units meeting ENERGY STAR specifications. Others, such as gas fireplaces, do not. In these cases, Department rules would almost certainly depend on rules or standards adopted in other jurisdictions or certifying entities. For these, the Department has some concern regarding product availability and the additional cost to purchase compliant products—even though these products may ultimately provide significant savings along with environmental dividends. The water softener product category is a prime example. Although the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) has established minimum requirements for certification of residential water softeners<sup>2</sup>, they remain unregulated by state appliance efficiency standards.

In closing, appliance efficiency standards for consumer and commercial products can provide energy savings and reduce water use and air emissions, while ultimately saving the user money. At the same time, these programs must be crafted to minimize any upfront costs if they are to succeed in the court of public opinion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.energystar.gov/products/commercial\\_steam\\_cookers](https://www.energystar.gov/products/commercial_steam_cookers)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-44-technical-requirements>